



## Utah Sheriffs' Association

P.O. Box 489  
Santa Clara, Utah 84765

Dear Friend:

Thank you for becoming a member of the Utah Sheriffs' Association ... your Honorary Membership credentials and a receipt for your dues are enclosed.

Our Association is striving to increase the effectiveness of Sheriffs in Utah. Certainly, your support will make us stronger - and a stronger Sheriff's Association means better law enforcement for you, your family, and all law-abiding citizens of our state.

Our publication will keep you posted on our programs and our progress. Thanks again for supporting our work.

Sincerely,

Gary W. DeLand  
Executive Director

### Honorary Member Official Receipt

\$ 25.00

(This confirms we have received  
your dues payment.)

R. Raymond Green  
375 E. 200 N.  
Heber City, UT 84032



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT!**

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Sheriffs' Association**  
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**JUVENILE COURT** is a special court that handles cases involving children who have committed offenses or who need the care and protection of society. The jurisdiction of juvenile courts varies from state to state, but most of them handle cases of *delinquency* and *neglect*. Most delinquency cases involve children who have broken the

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## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

law or who are difficult to control. Neglect cases involve children whose parents do not care for them properly.

In some cities, the juvenile court is a department of the court of domestic relations, the circuit court, or some other branch of the regular court system. In other cities, the juvenile court is a separate division.

Prior to the establishment of juvenile courts, judges in regular courts tried children for lawbreaking, and sentenced many to prison. In prison, the youngsters often associated with hardened criminals. Juvenile courts were the result of a change in attitude toward child offenders. A juvenile court was not considered a place to punish a child, but a place to help him.

In a juvenile court, children are not subjected to the harsh atmosphere and treatment often found in regular courts. A judge freely discusses a child's problem with him. Trained social workers give the judge information on the child's background. The judge decides what he thinks is best for the child—a warning, a fine, probation, referral to another agency, or confinement in an institution such as a training school or a reformatory.

In 1872, Massachusetts became the first state to provide separate court sessions for children. Colorado and Illinois enacted laws in 1899 providing for separate children's courts. Chicago established a juvenile court that same year, and Denver started one in 1903. By 1925, all but two states had juvenile courts.

In 1967, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the informal procedures used by juvenile courts deprived many children of certain rights guaranteed by the Constitution. It ruled that children must be granted these rights, including (1) the right of a child and his parents to be given adequate notice of the specific charge, (2) the right to have a lawyer in any case which may result in confinement, (3) the right to question witnesses, and (4) the right to remain silent.

Also in 1967, a special presidential commission on law enforcement reported that juvenile courts had failed in their efforts to decrease juvenile delinquency. The report gave several reasons for this failure, including (1) a basic lack of knowledge of the causes of juvenile delinquency, (2) society's lack of concern about juvenile courts, and (3) the lack of enough methods by which cases can be disposed. The commission recommended that social agencies be provided to help children who are in trouble. It urged that children be referred to a juvenile court "only as a last resort." MONRAD G. PAULSEN

See also JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

**JUVENILE DELINQUENCY** usually refers to the violation of a law by a juvenile. It includes those acts which would be crimes if adults committed them, such as auto theft and burglary, and also those acts which are illegal only for boys or girls, such as staying out after a curfew or drinking alcoholic beverages. The term *juvenile delinquency* has also come to include anything that youngsters do that goes against the standards of society, regardless of whether this action is legal or illegal.

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*Stanton Wheeler, the contributor of this article, is Professor of Law and Sociology at the Yale University Law School and a consultant to the Russell Sage Foundation. He is editor of Controlling Delinquents, and coauthor of Juvenile Delinquency: Its Prevention and Control.*

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